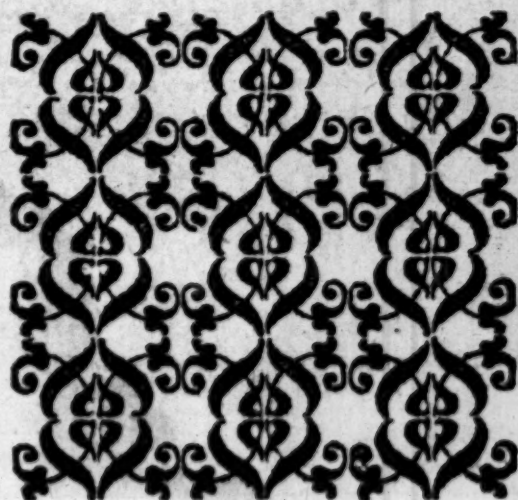


*Articles*  
To bee enquired of  
by the Church-wardens and  
*Sworne-men :*

In the Ordinary visitation of the Lord Bishop of  
*Excester*, within the Dioces of *Excester*,  
in Anno Dom. 1599.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE

NEW YORK TRIBUNE

NEW YORK

DEAR SIR

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Yours obedient servant,

Wm. L. G. B.

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**Articles to bee enquired of, by the Church-wardens and Sworne-men, in the ordinary visitation of the Lord Bishop of *Excester*, within the Dioces of *Excester*, in *Anno. Dom. 1599.***

1. **F**irst, whether your Church, in euery part bee kept in good reparation, and furnished with all bookes, a Communion Cup, a decent & comly Surplesse, a fayre standing Communion table, with ordinary number of bells, & whether the windowes be well glased, and your Churchyard kept sweete and cleane, and sufficiently fenced.

2. Item, whether you haue in your Church a Parchment booke, to register the names of such as are baptized, married, and buried, and the same kept and vsed according to the last Canons in that behalfe prouided.

3. Item, whether your Church be voyde, and if it bee, who gathereth the frutes thereof. And if it be full, whether the Incombent haue any more benefices then one, and whether hee be a Preacher, yea or no, and what degree of Schoole he hath taken, and what yeeres he was of when he was thereunto instituted.

4. Item, whether your Minister doth reuerentlie say seruice, and minister the Sacraments according to the Booke of Common Prayers, without any alteration thereof, and namely, vse the Ring in marriage, and the signe of the Crosse in Baptisme. And whether doth hee vse in his ministration the ornaments appoynted by the Lawes now in force, euery Sondag and Holiday.



## Articles of enquirie. &c.

5. Item, whether haue you had monthly Sermons in your Parish-church at the least, or no. And whether are the Homilies read when there is no Sermon, and by whom the sayde Sermons were preached.

6. Item, whether any person, beeing not Deacon at the least, be suffered to say seruice in your Church, to minister the Sacraments, or bury the dead. And whether dooth any take vpon him to preach, not beeing sufficiently licenced in wryting. And whether dooth any vse to preach, that doth not once in the yeere at the least administer one of the Sacraments.

7. Item, whether your Parson or Vicar bee resident vpon his Benefice, and whether hee bee an incontinent person, or suspected thereof, or guiltie of any other kind of lewdnes, vice, or notorious sinne.

8. Item, whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, haue publickely or otherwise, spoken against the order or gouernment of the Church of England, or the booke of Common-prayer established by lawe, and what poyntes therein he hath oppugned, in worde, wryting, or preaching.

9. Item, whether your Minister vse to pray for the Quænes Maiestie, Quæne Elizabeth, in your Church, by the title & stile due to her Maiestie, appointed by the statutes of this Realme and her Highnes iniunctions, and exhort the people to obedience to her Highnesse, and other Magistrates beeing in authoritie vnder her. And whether he pray also for the Arch-bishops and Bishops, and the whole Clergie of this Realme, according to the said statutes and iniunctions.

10. Item, whether your Minister dooth not openly in your Church catechise such as be of conuenient age, according,



## Articles of enquire. &c.

according to the order set forth in the Booke of Common prayer.

11. Item, whether all persons of conuenient age, doe not repaire vnto the Church, vpon Sondaiies, and Hollidaies, and receiue the Communion thise yeerely, humbly kneeling, and not standing, nor sitting.

12. Item, whether doe you knowe any persons that with-holde any stocke of the Church, or haue not made their account duilie according to the lawe, hauing bene Church-wardens.

13. Item, whether doe you knowe any common swea-  
rer, drunkard, or blasphemmer, any simoniacall person, u-  
surer, witch, coniurer, soothsayer, charmer, fornicatour,  
adulterer, incestuous person, or any that harboreth in-  
continent persons, or any vehemently suspected of any  
of those crimes.

14. Item, whether there bee any Schoole-maister in  
your parrish, & whether he doth teach without licence of  
his Ordinarie vnder his seale or no, & what is his name.

*or any one that preaches or reads the scriptures*  
15. Item, whether your Parson or Vicar serueth his  
cure by himielfe, or by a Curate: if by a Curate, what is  
his name, and whether he be licenced.

16 Item, whether doe you knowe any that dooth ob-  
stinately defende papistrie, heresies, errors, false doc-  
trine, schismes, sects, or innouations, and who they bee,  
and in what poynts.

17 Item, whether doe you knowe any man in your par-  
rish that hath two wiues liuing, or any woman that hath  
two husbands liuing.



## Articles of enquirie. &c.

18. Item, whether doe you knowe any person excommunicated in your parrish, and whether any such doe repaire to the Church. And whether your Parson, Vicare, or Curate, doth not continue still the denunciation of all excommunicated persons, vntill hee be aduertised vnder the Chancelors hand that such be absolved and restored.

19 Item, whether your parrish Church or Chauncell, or the Parsonage or Vicaradge house be ruinous or decayed, and by whose default.

20 Item whether doe you know any that vse conuenticles, or meetings for expounding of Scriptures, or saying of prayers in priuate houses or places.

21 Item, whether doe you know any receiuers of Jesuites, Seminaries, or Massing priestes, or any other fugitiue persons, or reconciled to the Church of Rome.

22. Item, whether there be any Hospitales or Almshouses within your parrish, & whether the same be used according to the foundation and ordinaunces thereof.

23 Item, whether doe you knowe any person ordered by the law to doe penance, or excommunicated for not dooing the same, doe still continue vnrformed.

24 Item whether any person or persons, haue deceased within your parrish since *the feast of*  
*day of Abraham last past*  
whose Testaments are to be proued before the Ordinarie, or the administration of their goods to be graunted, and specifie their names vpon your oathes.

25. Item, whether the corporall penance of any adulterous, incestuous or incontinent person within your parrish hath bene commuted into any pecuniarie summe of money,



## Articles of enquirie. &c.

money, by your Archdeacon, his Officiall, or Register. And how many within your parrish haue offended in fornication, adulterie, incest, or incontinenzie, sithence the last Parliament, and declare their names.

26. Item, whether your Minister hath or doth refuse to deuounce or exccute any processe, that is to him directed in the name of the Lord Bishop, or his Chaunceloz, from the Consistory of Ercester, as by law and his canonicall obedience he ought to doe.

27. Item, how many apparitors are within your Dea-nerie, and how many of them belong to the Consistorie, and howe many to the Arch-deacon, and declare theyr names. And whether any of them carry about processe called Quorum nomina, wherein the names of suspected persons are not set downe and expessed, and the processe subscribed by the Chaunceloz, or the Officiall of the Archdeacon, or not.

28. Item, whether any Sommers haue assummoned any person within your parrish, and after compounded with him, and made no returne thereof, according to the tenor of his processe, or exacted any fees, other then haue bene vsually to him payd.

**F I N I S.**